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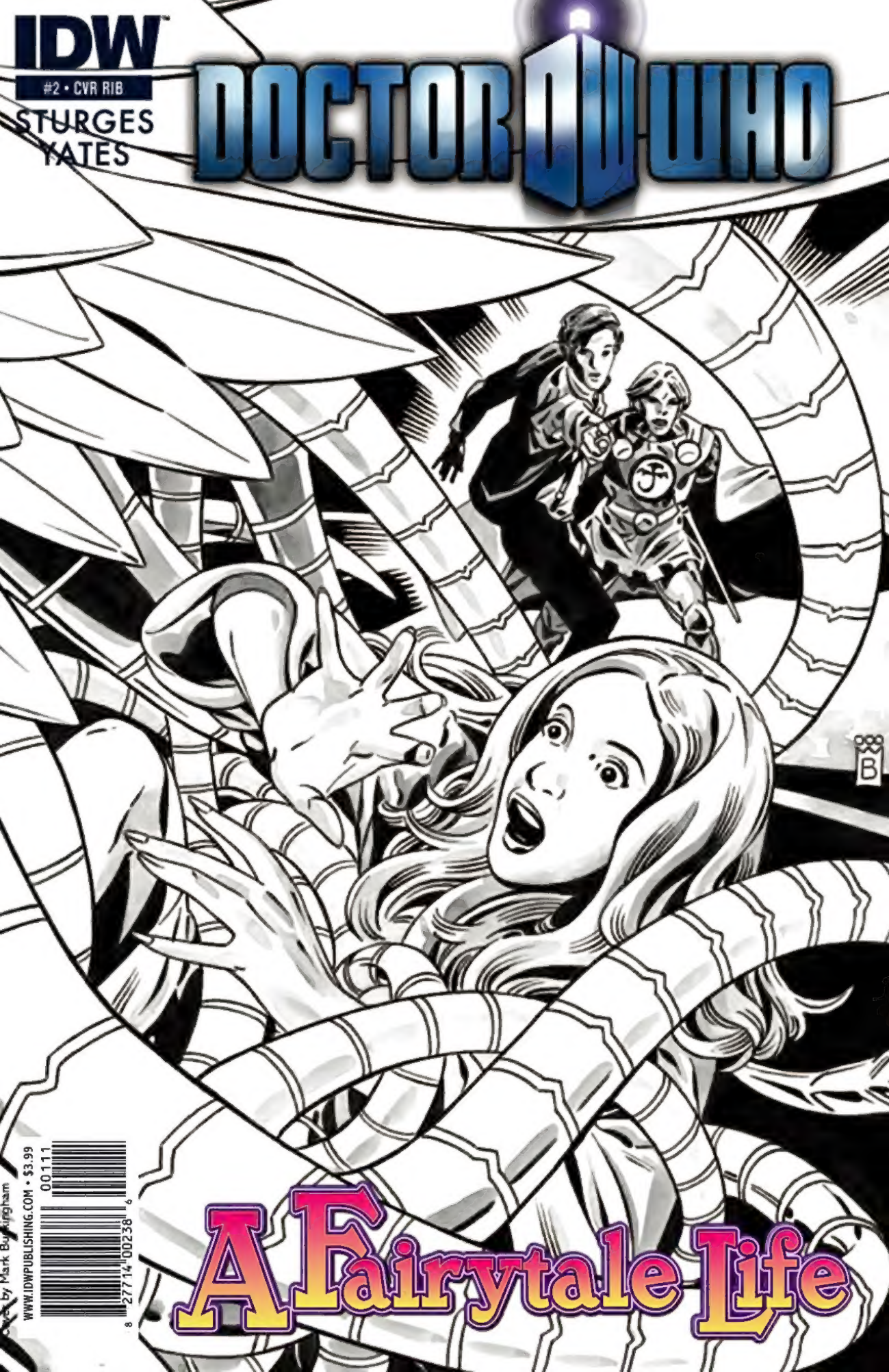

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A FAIRYTALE LIFE

Part 2 of 4

The story far...

The Doctor and Amy have arrived on the planet Caligaris Epsilon Six, expecting to find a holiday planet modeled after a fairytale world, replete with unicorns and dragons. But fantasy has become reality, and now monstrous creatures called Serpentines prey on the sick and injured. Now with Amy sick herself, the TARDIS missing, and guardsmen hot on their heels, happily ever after doesn't appear to be an option...

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Pencils by Kelly Yates
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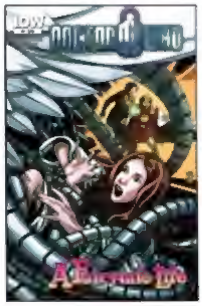

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THE HOLIDAY WORLD OF CALIGARIS EPSILON SIX.
NOW, LET'S NOT BE HASTY. HASTE CAUSES ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH BEING WASTE.

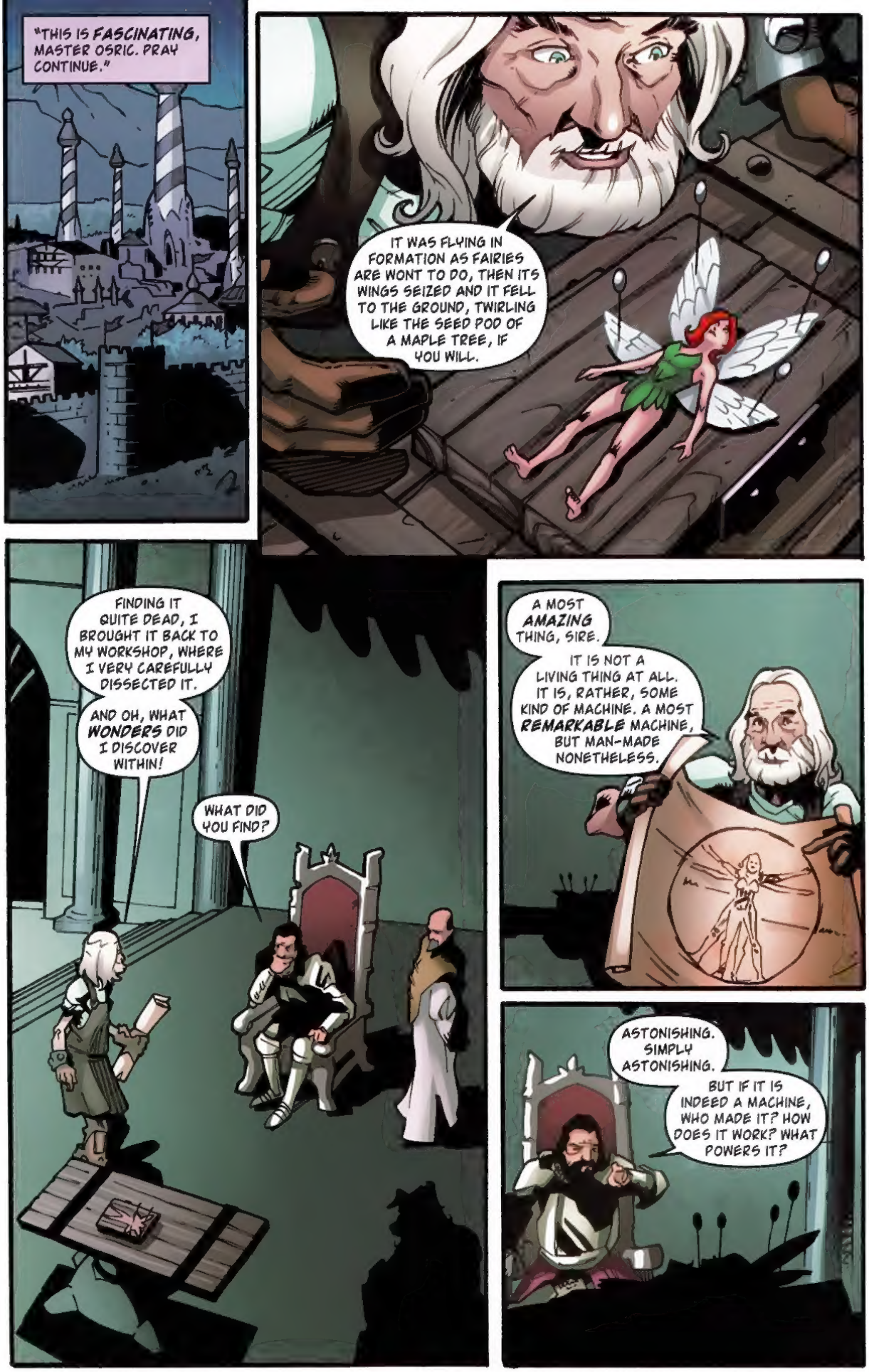
IF I COULD HAVE JUST ONE MOMENT, I BELIEVE I CAN CLEAR ALL OF THIS UP.
THERE WE ARE. ARE WE GOOD?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE, THEN?
WHAT? THAT'S ODD.
IT'S TOTALLY BLANK. WHY WOULD IT BE BLANK? UNLESS...
OF COURSE. THIS IS A TOTALLY CLOSED SOCIETY!
EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE. THE PSYCHIC PAPER CAN'T CONJURE UP A BELIEVABLE COVER!
SOOOO.
I'M THE DOCTOR, AND THIS IS AMY.
HELLO.
HELLO.

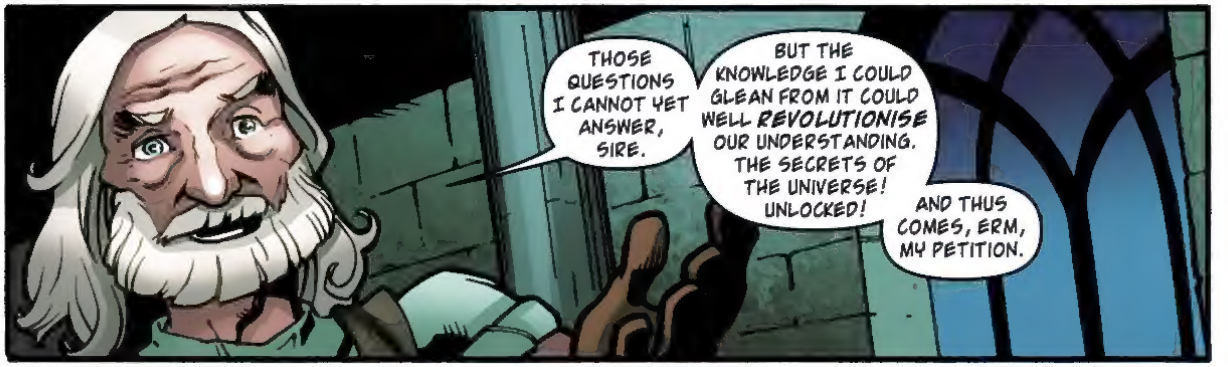
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T RUN YOU THROUGH RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

I'LL GIVE YOU A REASON. A VERY GOOD REASON.
YOU'VE LOST YOUR DAUGHTER. IT WAS YOUR DAUGHTER, WASN'T IT? AURELIA? I'VE HAD PLENTY OF FAMILY, AND I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE THEM.

I BELIEVE I CAN GET AURELIA BACK.
IF YOU KILL ME NOW AND THEN NEVER SEE HER AGAIN, YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WONDERING IF I WAS RIGHT.

BRING THEM.


"THIS IS FASCINATING, MASTER OSRIC. PRAY CONTINUE."
IT WAS FLYING IN FORMATION AS FAIRIES ARE WONT TO DO, THEN ITS WINGS SEIZED AND IT FELL TO THE GROUND, TWIRLING LIKE THE SEED POD OF A MAPLE TREE, IF YOU WILL.
FINDING IT QUITE DEAD, I BROUGHT IT BACK TO MY WORKSHOP, WHERE I VERY CAREFULLY DISSECTED IT.
AND OH, WHAT WONDERS DID I DISCOVER WITHIN!
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
A MOST AMAZING THING, SIRE.
IT IS NOT A LIVING THING AT ALL. IT IS, RATHER, SOME KIND OF MACHINE. A MOST REMARKABLE MACHINE, BUT MAN-MADE NONETHELESS.
ASTONISHING. SIMPLY ASTONISHING.
BUT IF IT IS INDEED A MACHINE, WHO MADE IT? HOW DOES IT WORK? WHAT POWERS IT?


THOSE QUESTIONS I CANNOT YET ANSWER, SIRE.
BUT THE KNOWLEDGE I COULD GLEAN FROM IT COULD WELL REVOLUTIONISE OUR UNDERSTANDING. THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE! UNLOCKED!
AND THUS COMES, ERM, MY PETITION.

I AM INTRIGUED BY WHAT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME. I GRANT YOUR REQUEST, A SUM OF GOLD WITH WHICH YOU MAY FORGO THE FORGE AND PURSUE YOUR STUDIES.
I AM DEEPLY HONORED, SIRE.

COME CLOSER, MASTER OSRIC. I HAVE WORDS FOR ONLY YOUR EARS.
DO YOU EVER SUSPECT, OSRIC, THAT OUR WORLD IS NOT ALL IT APPEARS TO BE?
WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, SIRE?

YOU TELL ME.
I HAVE THEORIES, SIRE, BUT THEY SOUND MAD EVEN TO ME AT TIMES.
THAT THE MEN OF AGES PAST MIGHT HAVE HAD ACCESS TO LEARNING THAT HAS BEEN LOST. OR HIDDEN FROM US!

CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS THEN, OSRIC. BUT DO IT DISCREETLY.
THERE ARE SOME WHO WOULD NOT WELCOME NEW IDEAS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I DO, SIRE. I WILL TAKE CARE.

SIRE! I BEG IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE!
NO NEED TO SHOVE!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

MASTER OSRIC, YOU MAY GO.

WHAT IS THIS, CALLUM? WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
IT'S MOST BAFFLING, SIRE. I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF EITHER OF THEM. I CAN SCARCELY CREDIT IT.
BUT HE CLAIMS TO BE ABLE TO RESCUE MY DAUGHTER.

HELLO, YOUR HIGHNESS, OR YOUR MAJESTY, OR YOUR WORSHIP, OR WHATEVER STRIKES YOUR ROYAL FANCY.
I'M THE DOCTOR— NO HONORIFIC NECESSARY— AND THIS IS MY COMPANION AMY.
I DON'T USUALLY DRESS LIKE THIS.

EXACTLY WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, DOCTOR?
ALL OVER, REALLY. MOST RECENTLY, THE STOMACH OF A GIANT INTERSTELLAR... WELL, CHICKEN, FOR WANT OF A BETTER WORD.
WHICH IS AN HONEST MISTAKE THAT COULD HAPPEN TO ABSOLUTELY ANYONE.
HISTORY IS RIDDLED WITH STORIES OF TIME LORDS LOST FOREVER IN THE BOWELS OF SPACE CHICKENS.
AND HOW DID YOU COME TO FIND YOURSELF IN MY CITY?
WE CAME IN MY SHIP. WELL, IT'S NOT SO MUCH A SHIP AS IT IS A LOVELY BLUE BOX.
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE SEEN IT? TALL? BLUE? BIGGER ON THE INSIDE?
I FIND WHAT YOU SAY DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE AT BEST.
AND YET YOUR IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN TO US? HOW IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE?
IF ONLY WE COULD SKIP TO THE BIT WHERE EVERYONE SIMPLY DOES AS I SAY WITHOUT ASKING A LOT OF PERSONAL QUESTIONS.
I MUCH PREFER THAT BIT.
THIS MAN IS CLEARLY MAD.
TAKE HIM TO THE GAOL AND LET THE MAGISTRATE DECIDE HIS FATE.

BUT SIRE!
WHAT IF HE TRULY CAN HELP AURELIA? AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT. FOR MY SAKE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. FOR YOU, CALLUM. SAY YOUR PIECE, DOCTOR.
PEOPLE HAVE GONE MISSING. THIS MAN, WHOM YOU CLEARLY RESPECT, HAS LOST HIS DAUGHTER.
I EXCEL IN FIXING THINGS AND SAVING PEOPLE. LOADS OF EXPERIENCE IN THAT AREA.
GIVE ME A CHANCE. THAT'S ALL I ASK.
AND THE BLUE BOX. I'LL WANT THAT BACK.
MY COMPANION'S COME DOWN WITH A BIT OF A BUG, YOU SEE, AND—
THE PEST, SIRE. SHE'S GOT THE PEST.

DOCTOR, IF YOUR FRIEND DOES INDEED HAVE THE PEST, THEN SHE IS DEAD ALREADY. NO ADULT CAN SURVIVE IT.
INCLUDING YOU.
IN THAT CASE, LET US GO OFF AND STORM THE DREAD TOWER.
IF WE'RE DEAD ANYWAY, THEN WHERE'S THE RISK?
I WILL TAKE THEM, SIRE. AT FIRST LIGHT I SHALL—
ENOUGH!
SIR CALLUM, YOU ARE LIKE A SON TO ME. AND I WILL NOT LET MY SON DIE FOR NOTHING, NO MATTER WHAT THIS MADMAN SAYS.
THEN AT LEAST LET ME TAKE THEM TO MY HOME, WHERE THEY MAY DIE IN COMFORT, RATHER THAN IN THE INDIGNITY AND SQUALOR OF THE GAOL.
AS YOU WISH. BUT BE WARNED—WHATEVER FURTHER TROUBLE THEY CAUSE IN THE INTERIM IS ON YOUR HEAD. SON OR NOT.

KING AETHELRED SEEMS RATHER INTENT ON KEEPING US AWAY FROM THE DREAD TOWER. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS?
HE'S BEEN KING FOR A VERY LONG TIME, AND HE'S SEEN MANY A KNIGHT GO TO HIS DEATH AGAINST THE TOWER'S DEFENCES.
MANY HAVE GONE— NONE HAS EVER RETURNED.
A VERY LONG TIME? JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, HOW LONG IS VERY LONG?
ALWAYS. AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.
HE IS THE KING. A KING IS ETERNAL.
DOCTOR, LOOK! A CENTAUR! A REAL LIVE CENTAUR! BRILLIANT!
YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT YOU HUMANS HUNTED THEM TO EXTINCTION 30,000 YEARS AGO.
EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT LOT, MIND YOU. BUT STILL—YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST TRIED TO GET ON WITH THEM.
TELL ME, CALLUM. WHAT SORT OF DEFENCES HAS THIS TOWER GOT?
THEY'RE FORMIDABLE TO SAY THE LEAST.
OGRES, CYCLOPS, AND WORST OF ALL, THE BLACK DRAGON. THE DRAGON IS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS BECAUSE—
DOCTOR?
I'M FEELING A WEE BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.

HOW IS YOUR FRIEND, DOCTOR?
SHE'S RESTING, ANYWAY.
TELL ME ABOUT THIS SICKNESS, THIS 'PEST'. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
IS THERE ANY SORT OF TREATMENT? ANY MENTION OF A CURE IN YOUR HISTORY BOOKS? ANYTHING AT ALL?
THE PLAGUE STRUCK A VERY LONG TIME AGO. WE'RE TAUGHT THAT WAS A CURSE—A PUNISHMENT FOR THE DECADENCE OF THE AGE.
ONLY THE INNOCENT WERE SPARED.
CHILDREN, YOU MEAN.
YES.
AND YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANY TREATMENT OR CURE?
THERE IS NO HERB OR SALVE THAT WILL RELIEVE THE JUDGMENT OF FATE, DOCTOR.

ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT, AMY?
OH, SURE. NEVER BETTER.
JUST A BIT SHAKY IS ALL.

WELL, DOC, HOW LONG HAVE I GOT?
WHIRR WHIRR WHIRR

NEVER MIND THAT. YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT GETTING SOME REST.

OI! IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO WORRY, STOP ACTING SO... CARETAKER-EY.
I'M NOT A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS, REMEMBER?

I'LL BE JUST IN THE OTHER ROOM WITH CALLUM. RING ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
CHICKEN SOUP. HOT TODDY. AND A SOFTER PILLOW.

WHOOOSH
DOCTOR? DID YOU HEAR THAT?

CRASH

DOCTOR!

DOCTOR! A HAND, PLEASE!

OI! GET AWAY FROM ME!

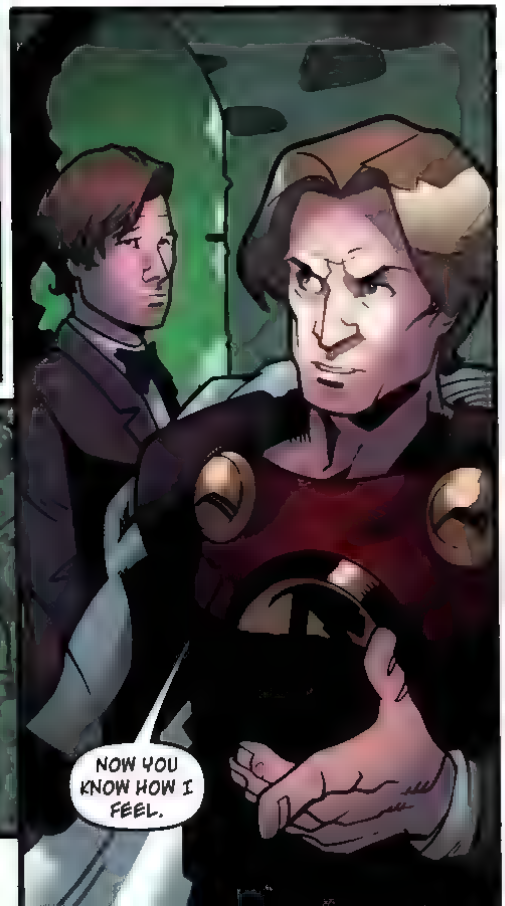
DOCTOR!

AMY!

SERPENTINE!
AMY! HOLD ON!

WHIRRRRR
ANY TIME YOU WANT TO STOP THIS WOULD BE JUST GRAND!
DON'T WORRY, AMY! I'M COMING FOR YOU!

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!


NOW YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL.

CALLUM, THAT'S THE THING THAT TOOK YOUR DAUGHTER?
YES, DOCTOR.

THERE. THAT'S JUST ABOUT GOT IT.
NOW TO CONNECT THE TERMINALS AND THEN WE SHALL SEE WHAT WE SHALL SEE!
LET'S BE FRIENDS? DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY? I LIKE TO I LIKE TO PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY...
CRASH
HELLO? WHO'S THERE? I'M IN THE MIDST OF A GROUNDBREAKING EXPERIMENT!
...PLAY PLAY LIKE TO I LIKE PLAY PLAY PLAY TO PLAY...
WHAT IS IT? I DON'T—

LET'S BE FRIENDS LET'S BE FRIENDS LET'S BE FRIENDS LET'S BE—

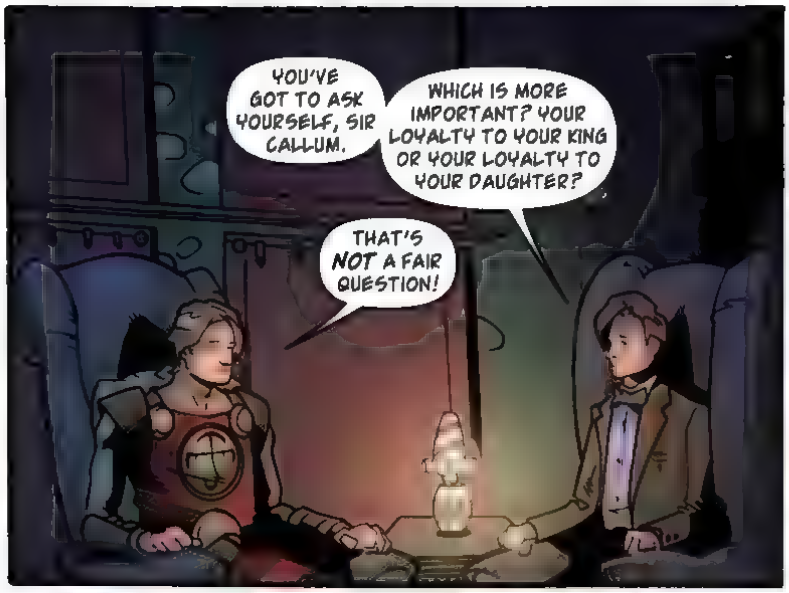
AMY! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
DAMN! WHY DON'T PEOPLE EVER PICK UP WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM TO?

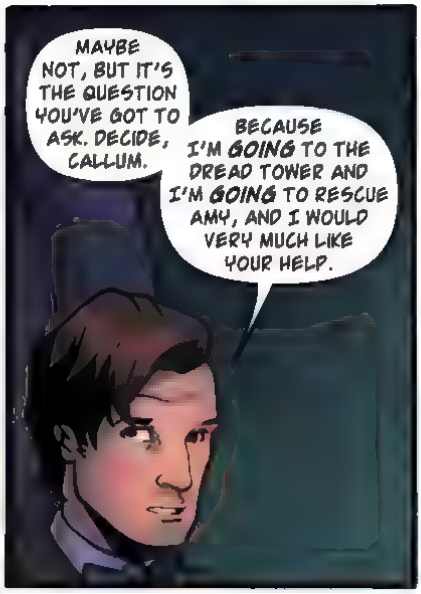
WHAT SORT OF SPELLCRAFT IS THAT?
MAGIC EAR... THINGY. HARD TO EXPLAIN.
EITHER SHE CAN'T REACH HER OWN EARPIECE OR THE SIGNAL'S BEING BLOCKED.

THERE'S A THIRD OPTION AND WE SHOULD BOTH BE PREPARED FOR IT.
SHE MAY ALREADY BE—

NO. DON'T SAY IT. DON'T EVEN THINK IT.
THERE'S A CHANCE. THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE.
AND AS LONG AS THERE'S EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE, WE HAVE THE STRENGTH GIVEN TO US BY HOPE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

BUT WHAT AM I TO DO, DOCTOR?
THE KING GAVE ME A DIRECT ORDER, AND I AM HIS KNIGHT!


YOU'VE GOT TO ASK YOURSELF, SIR CALLUM.
WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT? YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR KING OR YOUR LOYALTY TO YOUR DAUGHTER?
THAT'S NOT A FAIR QUESTION!


MAYBE NOT, BUT IT'S THE QUESTION YOU'VE GOT TO ASK. DECIDE, CALLUM.
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO THE DREAD TOWER AND I'M GOING TO RESCUE AMY, AND I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE YOUR HELP.

THEN I WILL GO WITH YOU. I'D RATHER DIE A TRAITOR WITH A DAUGHTER THAN AN HONORABLE MAN ALONE.
BRILLIANT. THAT'S SORTED.

OF COURSE, TO PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY OF QUESTING WITH ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ME IN SINGLE COMBAT FIRST.
WHAT? SERIOUSLY?

NO, OF COURSE NOT. BUT YOU SHOULD SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE!
I LIKE YOU, CALLUM. A MAN WHO LAUGHS IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS EITHER A VERY BRAVE MAN, OR A LUNATIC.
JUST LIKE ME.

LIKE YOU HOW? DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE A BRAVE MAN OR THAT YOU'RE A LUNATIC?
EXACTLY

LET ME GO, YOU GREAT SQUID!
OH, NO. NO, NO, NO! NO WAY, MISTER!

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DOCTOR!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
YOU HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A NUMBER OF LACERATIONS AND MILD CONTUSIONS CAUSED BY STRUGGLING AGAINST THE RETRIEVAL UNIT.
THESE INJURIES ARE NOW BEING HEALED.
YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH RECOMBINANT YERSINIA PESTIS.
NO TREATMENT ON FILE.
THUS I HAVE ENGAGED THE EMERGENCY QUARANTINE PROTOCOL.
WHAT PROTOCOL? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE POPULATION, YOUR LIFE WILL NOW BE TERMINATED.
YOU WILL FEEL NO PAIN.
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT MONTH PART 3
A Fairytale Life